



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

No. 161

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 28, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TED POE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of mercy, thank You for giving us another day. May the words of Ezekiel stir our hearts.

"The nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when in their sight I prove My holiness through you. . . . From all your idols, I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stoney hearts and giving you natural hearts."

Lord God of prophets and politicians, through the campaigns, surface out fiction and malicious thoughts so that Your people may be led to America's common concerns and the truth upon which to build anew. Deepen convictions in all contestants that their hearts may be naturally transformed by the response of the people and Your holy inspirations.

We pray for civility in the weeks to come and peaceful resolve across our land, both now and forever.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### RELEASE OLEG SENTSOV

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, in 2015, Russian authorities arrested Oleg Sentsov, Ukrainian filmmaker and human rights activist, for protesting the occupation of Crimea and sentenced him to 20 years in prison.

On May 14 of this year, he began a hunger strike that has lasted over 130 days. Russia has unjustly imprisoned over 150 individuals. They suffer psychiatric confinement, closed trials, and harsh prison conditions. Russia also threatened to strip dissidents and members of religious minorities their parental rights.

Oleg is in prison north of the Arctic Circle. He receives IV treatments of saline, amino acids, and vitamins. His sister reported in September that he thinks he will die soon.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon Russian authorities to release Oleg Sentsov, and I call upon them to protect political free speech, religious liberty, and the sovereignty of international borders.

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO DIED AT THE ROUTE 91 HARVEST FESTIVAL

(Ms. ROSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the 58 innocent souls who were taken on October 1.

No words can describe the devastation and heartbreak my community experienced that night. So many families in Las Vegas and across the Nation are still grieving from this unspeakable tragedy, and their lives will never be the same.

I am forever grateful to our first responders, medical professionals, hotel and security staff, and the kindness of strangers who helped the wounded to the hospital and stood in line for hours to donate blood.

We will never forget the selfless and heroic acts by men and women who risked it all and gave their lives for others that night.

As we continue to heal, what we have always known about our community remains true: We are Vegas strong; we are resilient; and even in our darkest hour, we come together united.

### APPLAUDING HURRICANE FLORENCE RECOVERY EFFORTS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the response to Hurricane Florence, which caused extensive damage in the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H9155

Carolinas earlier this month. The mission is far from over, but the Federal response has been swift, and the National Guard units from across the country have been working together to help in the recovery efforts.

Proudly, members of the Pennsylvania National Guard are helping to provide shelter support. The level of professionalism and training shown during this recovery by guardsmen from across the country is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, there are many aspects of the recovery effort, including food assistance. I am pleased that USDA acted quickly to announce Disaster SNAP. Households that may not normally be eligible for SNAP or food stamps may qualify for Disaster SNAP.

Providing food assistance to neighbors in need is exactly why the SNAP program exists. Food security is an important step toward bringing back normalcy and stability for families impacted by the disaster.

Mr. Speaker, as our fellow Americans begin putting their lives back together, I am pleased to know that they will have help every step of the way.

#### PUBLIC CHARGE RULE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security announced a proposed rule change that would increase the number of immigrants considered a public charge.

This rule change is a dangerous departure from our current immigration policy. The administration is hurting immigrant families, including families that are U.S. citizens, by penalizing those who seek a green card or visa and use programs like SNAP, housing assistance, or Medicaid.

This rule has the potential to impact about 1.8 million Texas children whose parents may forego critical needs like food and health assistance for their families in fear that, if they use these programs, it will hinder their access to citizenship. This is another step by the Trump administration to restrict immigration into the country.

In Houston, we have a long history of immigrants and newcomers bringing innovation, entrepreneurship, and hard work. It has made Houston what it is today. From the separation of our families at the southern border to punishing immigrant families for using programs they legally qualify for, I am deeply saddened by this administration's constant disregard for the children and their families.

#### THE CRIB ACT

(Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R.

6, which we are voting on here today. H.R. 6 includes my legislation, the Caring Recovery for Infants and Babies Act, known as the CRIB Act.

The most innocent victims of the opioid crisis are the precious newborn babies that were exposed to drugs during pregnancy. It simply breaks your heart.

Three years ago, I helped start Lily's Place in my hometown, a healthcare facility that has provided compassionate, loving healthcare to more than 200 newborn babies going through the ravages of withdrawal after birth.

Passing the CRIB Act today will allow this one-of-a-kind program to be replicated around the country so every child gets the best possible chance for a healthy start in life.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my fellow Members to vote "yes" on H.R. 6, the CRIB Act.

#### FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House passage of the FAA reauthorization bill, and I am delighted that the conference agreement includes provisions from my bill, the Safeguarding America's Skies Act. These provisions provide the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice with the authority to use counterdrone technology to detect, monitor, and interdict drones that pose a threat to the safety and security of our country.

We must face the reality that drone technology is being exploited to advance crime and threaten our national security. Drones are used to smuggle illegal drugs across borders and contraband into prisons. On the other side of the globe, terrorist groups are using drones to target U.S. forces and coalition partners.

Unfortunately, under current law, most Federal agencies are prohibited from engaging with drones due to various outdated laws. This legislation will provide our Federal law enforcement agencies with the tools necessary to protect U.S. citizens from criminal and nefarious acts. Our skies will be safer and our families will be safer.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as well as the many advocacy groups, health organizations, and constituents working with our offices, for ensuring an extension of the Violence Against Women Act while a long-term reauthorization is finalized. This is a crucial first step toward ensuring that victims of violence continue to have the

resources they rely on and our law enforcement officers can keep up the fight against domestic violence and sex crimes.

VAWA is a landmark piece of legislation enacted over two decades ago. It plays two very important roles: first, to prevent against violent crimes against women; and second, to provide care and assistance to women who were victims of violent crimes.

VAWA has enhanced domestic violence and stalking penalties, added protections for abused elderly and disabled women, helped to fight against sex trafficking, and addressed the rape kit backlog in many States.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues toward a long-term reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

#### HEALTH EQUITY AND ACCESS FOR RETURNING TROOPS AND SERVICEMEMBERS ACT OF 2018

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6886) to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the requirement for certain former members of the Armed Forces to enroll in Medicare Part B to be eligible for TRICARE for Life, and to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of certain DNA specimen provenance assay tests under the Medicare program, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6886

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Health Equity and Access for Returning Troops and Servicemembers Act of 2018" or the "HEARTS Act of 2018".

#### SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO ENROLL IN MEDICARE PART B TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE FOR LIFE.

(a) TRICARE ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 1086 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6)(A) The requirement in paragraph (2)(A) to enroll in the supplementary medical insurance program under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j et seq.) shall not apply to a person described in subparagraph (B) during any month in which such person is not entitled to a benefit described in subparagraph (A) of section 226(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 426(b)(2)) if such person has received the counseling and information under subparagraph (C).